Reimbursement of Election Expenditure to States

3318. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government reimburse the expenditure incurred by State Governments on account of holding elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislature; and

(b) if so, the amount due to be paid to each State as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes Sir. The Government shares/bears the election expenditure with the State Governments. The reimbursement is to the extent of 50% of the total expenditure when the election to the Lok Sabha are held simultaneously with the elections to the State Legislative Assemblies. The entire expenditure, however, is borne by the Government of India if the elections to the Lok Sabha are held independently. The Government of India does not reimburse any expenditure if only the elections, for the State Legislature Assemblies are held.

(b) The process of reimbursement of election related expenditure is a continuous process and the liabilities, invariably, are carried forward to subsequent years. Thfe Government releases money, based on annual claims preferred under various sub-heads which *inter alia,* include the expenditure incurred exclusively, for the Lok Sabha elections. The year upto which such settlement has been made varies from State to State. In view of the fact that upto date claims have not been received from all the States, it is not possible to indicate the amount payable to each State as on date.

Voter Identity Cards to Citizens in Delhi

†3319. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of citizens in Delhi who have not been issued voter identity cards so far; and

(b) whether Government are considering to initiate any programme in this regard so that all the citizens can get identity cards; if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As per the information furnished by the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, out of a total electorate of 8,707,531 the number of persons issued with Electoral Photo Identity Cards, free from any defects is 5,800,683. The remaining 2,906,848 electors (33%) are yet to be issued Photo Identity Cards.

(b) The Election Commission of India will give wide publicity whenever the campaign for the issue of Photo Identity Cards is taken up. According to the Commission, the scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards to electors is an ongoing programme due to continuous registration of new electors and hence no time limit can be fixed for completion of such a programme.

Cross voting in Rajya Sabha Elections

†3320. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of money and cross voting in elections to the Rajya Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take strict action to check cross voting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of allegations made in this regard as reported in the newspapers. Some corrective steps have also been suggested which are under examination by the Government.

Cases pending in Courts

3321. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of five, ten, fifteen and twenty year old cases pending in Supreme Court as well as High Courts, both Civil and Criminal separately; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal of cases?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.